



California Fair Political Practices Commission

March 25, 1988

Isabelle B. Gonthier
Rio Hondo Community College District
3600 Workman Mill Road
Whittier, CA 90608

Re: Your Request for Advice
Our File No. I-88-122

Dear Ms. Gonthier:

You have written for advice concerning various actions of the Rio Hondo Community College District.

The Fair Political Commission is responsible for interpreting and enforcing the provisions of the Political Reform Act.^{1/} Your concerns are not addressed by the Act. Therefore, we are unable to provide advice on this subject. You might contact your local district attorney to discuss the Brown Act violations you believe have occurred.

We appreciate your interest in the Commission. If we may be of assistance in the future, please let me know.

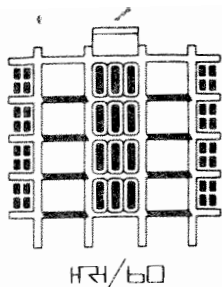
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Diane M. Griffiths", is written over the typed name.

Diane M. Griffiths
General Counsel

DMG:plh

^{1/} Government Code Sections 81000-91015. All statutory references are to the Government Code unless otherwise indicated.



RIO HONDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

3600 Workman Mill Road • Whittier, CA 90608 • Phone 692-0921

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Office of the President

March 8, 1988

Fair Political Practice Committee
Mr. John Larson, Chair
428 "J" Street, Suite 800
P.O. Box 807
Sacramento, CA 95804

Dear Sir:

This is a formal request to investigate and/or advise me on a matter of grave importance. My concern centers around the actions of the Board of Trustees of the Rio Hondo Community College District of which I am a member. At an official Board meeting on February 24, 1988, I presented the following complaints:

1. That action is taken - orders given to administration to produce something without benefit of motion, second, or vote. That these actions were not on the agenda for consideration by all Board Members.
2. That individual administrators are given orders to perform tasks for individual Board Members without consent or knowledge of the entire Board. That the information is acquired and Board Members are not made aware of its intention or use.
3. That staff is assigned/appointed to sit on committees without benefit of full Board approval - motion, second, and vote.
4. That committees are established and Board Members appointed to that committee again without full Board approval - motion, second, and vote.
5. That three Board Members are seen meeting together after the Board Meetings, alone and with staff members, which is a violation of the Brown Act.
6. That staff members sit in the audience and are seen signaling Board Members, with thumbs up or the finger sign for okay.
7. That staff members are allowed to come to an open forum to criticize their superiors with what appears to be approval by some Board Members.

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8. That as an entire Board, we are not communicating - we are not being fully informed. Our rights to full consideration along with the opportunity of due deliberation on impending issues, actions, and transactions are being usurped and thereby depriving some Board Members and their constituents of their rights to equal governance of the college.

Because the above incidences are occurring more frequently and there seems to be no way to correct them, I am appealing to sources outside the college for assistance. I hope we can avoid the negative impact that improper boardsmanship will surely have on our 1989 application for reaccreditation. I cannot remain silent as the participation in governance of the college is being taken from me and the public constituency that elected me.

If you have any further questions, you can call me at (work) 213/698-2278, or (home) 213/693-9343.

I anxiously await your response.

Sincerely,



Isabelle B. Gonthier
Clerk, Board of Trustees
Rio Hondo Community College District

IBG:ss

cc: Whittier Daily News
Whittier Highlander
Los Angeles Times, San Gabriel Section
Los Angeles Times, Southeast Section
Mid Valley News
La Habra Review
Pico Rivera News
Quad Shopper
RHC Board of Trustees